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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 001561

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: ONE ISRAELI SETTLER AND ONE
PALESTINIAN INJURED IN WEST BANK; ONE MORTAR SHELL EXPLODES
IN GAZA, BUT NO INJURIES-- MARCH 16, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: One Israeli settler was injured in a shooting incident perpetrated by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, and one Palestinian was injured by IDF fire in the West Bank March 15-16. Gaza was quiet, except for one mortar shell explosion near Neve Dekalim, but no injuries resulted. End Summary.

West Bank

[1](#)2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

--Injuries: According to Palestinian and Israeli media, an Israeli settler was wounded in a shooting attack in the Hebron city center on March 15. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades took responsibility for the attack.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian sources, a Palestinian man was shot and injured by the IDF near Habla village, Qalqilya governorate, when he attempted to flee from soldiers at a checkpoint on March 16.

-- Shootings: According to Palestinian and Israeli sources, shots were fired at an Israeli car near Bracha settlement, near Nablus, on March 15. No injuries were reported.

-- Shootings: According to Palestinian sources, three Palestinians were arrested by the IDF in Nablus, and two in Kharbtha village, west of Ramallah, on March 15.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, two Palestinians were arrested by the IDF in Taysir village in the Jordan Valley on March 15. Two assault rifles were confiscated.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian and Israeli sources, an explosive device detonated at an Israeli bus stop near al-Aroub camp, north of Hebron, on March 15. No injuries were reported.

[1](#)3. (SBU) CLOSURES/CURFEWS:

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF opened roads between Tal village, Sura and Iraq Burin, all near Nablus, on March 15.

[1](#)4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- According to Palestinian sources, the Arab American University in Jenin held elections on March 15. The Fatah youth bloc won 15 seats, Hamas/Palestinian Islamic Jihad won 14 seats, the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) won 3 seats, and Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) won 1 seat.

Gaza

[1](#)5. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Mortars/Rockets: One mortar shell exploded near Neve Dekalim on March 16, but no injuries resulted, according to the IDF.

-- Shootings: Nil.

-- Explosions: Nil.

16. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open March 16, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinians March 15, and 1,050 laborers and 188 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open March 15, and 572 laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction March 16.

-- Karni Terminal was open, but operated slowly March 16.
-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures March 16.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed March 16. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi.

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KURTZER